

7. FIRST SIGHTING OF LESSER ADJUTANT-STORK *LEPTOPTILOS JAVANICUS* FROM SANJAY GANDHI NATIONAL PARK, MUMBAI

A solitary adult lesser adjutant-stork *Leptoptilos javanicus* was sighted at Vihar lake, Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP), Mumbai, on January 21, 2001 at 1000 hrs. When first sighted, the bird was searching for food at the bank of the lake. However, due to human disturbance, it took off, soared for a while, settled on a bare tree for 10 min and then resumed its feeding activities. While in the air, it was mobbed by three black kites *Milvus migrans*. However, the bird looked undeterred by these raptors. Subsequently, local birdwatchers sighted it thrice in six days, the last being on January 27, 2001.

According to Ali and Ripley (1987), *L. javanicus* is resident, nomadic (during monsoon) and locally migratory. Apart from Assam, which is its stronghold, it is scattered across West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Kutch, Rajasthan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Lainer (1999) and Choudhury (1995) have also reported the bird from Goa and

Arunachal Pradesh respectively. Though widely distributed, it occurs in very low densities along its entire range except Assam, and has been designated as a 'globally threatened species' (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992; Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

The breeding season of *L. javanicus* stretches from July to January (Grimmett *et al.* 1998) and thus the appearance of an adult bird at SGNP in January indicates that it might be breeding in northern regions of the Western Ghats. The poor monsoon during 2000 and the subsequent water scarcity may also have forced individuals to travel greater distances in search of food. A detailed study of its probable range is, however, essential to be able to comment on its breeding in northwestern Maharashtra.

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8. BLACK IBIS *PSEUDIBIS PAPILLOSA* FEEDING ON FROGS FROM CRAB HOLES

On November 5, 6 and 8, 1999, at about 0700 hrs on the K. Sathanur Road, Kalaigal Karunanidhi Nagar, Trichy, Tamil Nadu, I saw a pair of black ibis *Pseudibis papillosa* running into shallow rainfed pools and beating their wings. Only on November 9, on closer examination, did I realise that the splashing of water and beating of wings, probably by the same pair, had frogs jumping out

of the water into crab holes, situated on the margin of the dried portion of the pool. The crab holes were freshly formed. The ibis would thrust their in-curved bills fully into the crab holes, only the warts on their head visible, spreading out their muddy red legs and pull a frog out in c. 1-2 min. Once the bird had pulled the frog out, it would throw it on the ground, stab it with its bill and